VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3-5, 8-10 and 14 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said sintered body comprises aluminum nitride grains having a mean diameter of not lower than 3 μm.

4. (Amended) The material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the molar ratio of said converted content of samarium calculated as samarium oxide to an calculated content of aluminum oxide (Sm_2O_3/Al_2O_3) is 0.05 to 0.5.

5. (Amended) The material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said sintered body has an activation energy of temperature dependency of volume resistivity from room temperature to 300 °C of not higher than 0.4 eV.

8. (Amended) The material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said sintered body has a lightness of not higher than N4 measured according to JIS Z8721.

9. (Amended) The material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said sintered body contains one or more metal element selected from the group consisting of metal elements belonging to the periodic table IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA and VIIIA in a content calculated as metal element of not lower than 0.01 weight percent.

10. (Amended) The material of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said sintered body contains at least one second rare earth element other than samarium, and wherein the molar ratio of a converted content of said second rare earth element calculated as rare earth oxide to said converted content of samarium calculated as samarium oxide (said converted content of said second rare earth element/said converted content of samarium) is not higher than 2.0.

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14. (Amended) The sintered body of claim 12 ~~or 13~~, having a volume resistivity at room temperature of not higher than $1 \times 10^{13}\ \Omega \cdot cm$.